



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR MENTORING” EVENT
WRAPS UP MENTORING MONTH IN CALIFORNIA**

Business and Community Leaders Recognized for Participation in Mentoring Local Students

CULVER CITY – Representatives from the Governor’s Mentoring Partnership, the Office of the Secretary for Education, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), NBC4 News Anchor Michele Ruiz and AmeriCorps members announced today the success of “Stamp of Approval for Mentoring,” an event to celebrate “Mentoring Month in California.”

“Mentors have helped thousands of California students meet their academic potential,” said Secretary for Education Kerry Mazzoni. “Stoner Avenue Elementary and LAUSD’s academic mentor program have made an exemplary commitment to provide a mentor for every student who needs one.”

The Governor’s Office of the Secretary for Education, Academic Volunteer and Mentor Service Program (AVMSP), along with the Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism’s AmeriCorps members and other volunteer mentors, provide children at Stoner Avenue Elementary School with tutoring and service-learning activities daily. Stoner Avenue Elementary School is the recipient of a three-year grant from the Office of the Secretary for Education. Pamela Williams, the principal of Stoner Avenue School is committed to providing 200 students each year with mentors who serve as role models, provide assistance in reading and math, and become caring friends to these students.

“Mentoring changes the life of a child,” said Principal Williams. “Mentoring also makes a difference in the life of the mentor.”

Secretary Mazzoni applauded the efforts of the LAUSD Academic Mentoring Program. “Academic mentors can help a child succeed in school,” Secretary Mazzoni said. “Mentors help our schools open doors to a bright future for our youth.”

Dr. Jim Kooler of the Governor’s Mentoring Partnership announced the Governor’s proclamation of January 2002 as “Mentoring Month in California.”

“Mentoring Works!” said Dr. Kooler. “Mentor Month in California highlights our commitment to connecting caring adults to help children to a brighter tomorrow. GO SERV AmeriCorps volunteers are touching the lives of thousands of children.”

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“STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR MENTORING” EVENT 2-2-2-2

NBC4 is the local media partner with Los Angeles Mentoring Partnership for National Mentoring Month in Los Angeles. NBC4 has been an outstanding partner, airing mentoring public service announcements daily and inspirational mentoring stories from Los Angeles Mentoring Coalition agencies. News Anchor Michele Ruiz emceed the “Stamp of Approval for Mentoring” event, welcoming the crowd with remarks about her personal mentoring experience.

Carole Donahue, the Academic Mentor Coordinator for LAUSD thanked local business and community partners for their participation and support. Rotary, KOREH Los Angeles Foundation of the Jewish Federation, Catholic Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Miller Toyota, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, University of California, Los Angeles BruinCorps, California State University, Northridge, West Hills Hospital, Los Angeles Mentoring Partnership and the Los Angeles Times Reading by nine were among the recognized partners.

Larry Dozier, a spokesperson for the United States Postal Service, unveiled the 2002 “Mentoring A Child” stamp. The stamp, which can be viewed at www.usps.gov, is a Lance Hidy design. With the words “Mentoring a Child-Values, Goals, Skills,” the stamp raises public awareness of the benefits of mentoring.

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